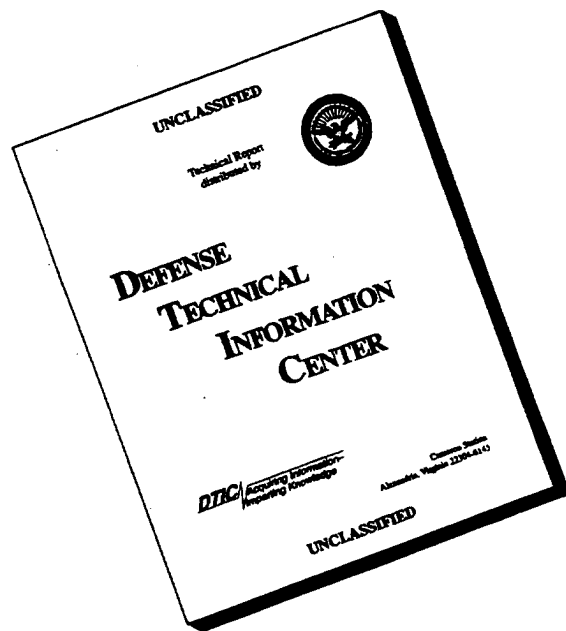


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SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(January 22 - February 21, 1983)

March 1983

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

Analyst: Rachel Warner

PREFACE

This monthly survey compiles articles on sub-Saharan Africa which appear in Pravda. It has been prepared since April 1980. Pravda is the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Items published are presumably authoritative. Articles dealing with Soviet political, military, or economic interests in Africa are entirely translated or extensively excerpted or summarized. News accounts which heavily rely on news services of other countries are simply noted. All entries have been arranged chronologically under general African or country headings. FBIS translations are summarized or annotated for reader reference; duplication is avoided.

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Summary of Commentary In Pravda on Sub-Saharan Africa
(22 January 1983 - 21 February 1983)

Africa General

UN Secretary General Departs for Africa

(Excerpt) UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar departed on a 2-week trip to Africa, during which he will visit Angola, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. The goal of his trip is to find a solution to the deadlock in which the United States, its NATO partners, and South Africa are immersed over the issue of Namibia's independence. The African states demand an active role in the UN in the resolution of the Namibian problem. (31 Jan 83, p. 4)

Close of OAU Conference

(Excerpt) The issue of the struggle to eliminate the last traces of colonialism and racism in Africa was raised in the closing of the 40th session of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) being held in the Tanzanian city of Arusha. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs from 15 countries participated. (12 Feb 83, p. 5)

Southern Africa

SADCC Conference

(Excerpt) Political and economic problems in southern Africa are the center of attention during a meeting of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) in Maseru, Lesotho. The Minister of Finances and Planning of Botswana spoke on the importance of strengthening unity and solidarity among southern African states. (29 Jan 83, p. 3)

UN Secretary General Speaks on Namibia

(Text) UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar appeared at a press conference in Lusaka's airport in which he said the goal of his visit was to demonstrate to the African nations UN support for the struggle against racism. The problem of Namibia, he continued, is of importance to the international community, and the UN will do all in its power to find a solution. Furthermore, the link between Namibia's independence and the removal of Cuban troops from Angola is not feasible. The Namibian problem, he concluded, should have been resolved by UN General Assembly Resolution number 435. (2 Feb 83, p. 5)

UN Secretary General Visits Zimbabwe

(Excerpt) Serious anxiety in the international community with the endless stalemate over the Namibian problem has prompted a visit to Zimbabwe by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. During a press conference with Prime Minister Mugabe, he criticized South Africa's aggressive policies. (8 Feb 83, p. 5)

USSR Society Supports Release of Southern African Political Prisoners

(Excerpt) Soviet society has always supported demands for liberation of political prisoners in southern Africa. A wide response was received in the Soviet Union to the collection of signatures for a declaration demanding the release of African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa leader Nelson Mandela. (11 Feb 83, p. 4)

Indian Ocean

Commentary on US Military Presence in Indian Ocean

(Excerpt) India and Mauritius resolutely condemned the buildup by the United States of its military presence in the Indian Ocean and the seizure from Mauritius and illegal conversion of Diego Garcia into a nuclear base. During a meeting in Delhi of the heads of state of the two countries, both declared that the militarization of the Indian Ocean poses a threat to peace and stability in this region of the world. The hegemonic politics of the United States present a sharp contrast to the deep concern of the peaceful Soviet society and other socialist countries about the security of nations. The disappearance of military and political tension in the Indian Ocean is one of the important problems of modern international development and is of interest to millions of people. (18 Feb 83, p. 5)

Angola

Meeting of the Organization of Journalists

(Text) A meeting of the Presidium of the Organization of International Journalists opened in Luanda. Representatives from journalists' organizations in 30 countries are participating, including a delegation from the Soviet Journalists' Union. (29 Jan 83, p. 4)

FAPLA Brigade Honored

(Summary) On a serene January morning, personnel of the 16th Brigade of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola (FAPLA) were on parade. The occasion for this special event was that the brigade had returned to its base after almost 2 months of action, and the Chief of FAPLA's general staff, Antony dos Santos, was visiting. The 16th Brigade had been noted in the New Year address of the Defense Ministry. The reason for this high acclaim is the brigade's brave actions against South African-supported National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) bandits in southern Angola who are trying to establish an alternative government headed by South African henchmen. This latest round of fighting has been labeled Operation Lupire after the town which was liberated by FAPLA units. (30 Jan 83, p. 5)

International Journalists' Organization Meeting Closes

(Excerpt) The meeting of the Organization of International Journalists came to a close in Luanda. Representatives of more than 30 countries discussed the activities of the organization and problems of journalists in strengthening peace. The participants in the meeting resolutely condemned the aggressive

policies of the United States and South Africa aimed at destabilizing conditions in Angola and other frontline states, and voiced support for arms control. (31 Jan 83, p. 4)

UNITA Strength in Southern Angola

(Excerpt) Anxiety is mounting in southern Angola. According to reports, counterrevolutionary detachments of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) attacked the settlement of Cacacunga in the province of Jambo. The day before, they had attacked the city of Menonga in the province of Cuando-Cubango. Slightly earlier, the hydroelectric plant on Catumbela River had been sabotaged. These actions coincided with the visit to Luanda of an American delegation to discuss the problem of Namibia. It is no secret that the United States is applying pressure on the Angolan Government to agree to the American plan.

UNITA was formed in 1966 in southern Angola. Its leader, Jonas Savimbi, maintains that the movement grew out of the struggle for independence with the Portuguese colonialists. Without the support of Angola's neighbors, Savimbi would have lost long ago; he, himself, admits that. The guiding hand of UNITA belongs to the CIA without which it would not have adequate financial and military support. (2 Feb 83, p. 5)

UN Secretary General Arrives in Angola

(Excerpt) Angola will henceforth support UN attempts to ease international tension and to secure international peace, said Angolan President Jose dos Santos during a visit to the country by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. (2 Feb 83, p. 5)

Women Begin Participating in All Careers

(Summary) Maria Olympia, a fragile figure in workers' overalls in a photograph on the first page of the newspaper Jornal de Angola, was honored because she is the first woman mechanic in Angola. Another woman is training to fly for Angola's national air company. Since independence, Angola has been training women to take part in all facets of life. (7 Feb 83, p. 5)

FAPLA Battle Successes

(Text) The Jornal de Angola has reported that in a matter of days, in Jambo Province north of Alta-Ama, units of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola (FAPLA) defeated a counterrevolutionary band in this region. During the operation, the enemy lost more than 20 men. According to the report from its command center, FAPLA, the section of the national army which fights in southern Angola against the counterrevolutionaries, has penetrated into enemy territory and freed the peaceful residents. (15 Feb 83, p. 5)

Congo

Nuclear Arms Reduction Urged

(Summary) In an article directed to the West, a Congolese newspaper representing the Congolese national army wrote that its ally, the Soviet Union, rejects a nuclear confrontation and encourages talks to limit nuclear arms. The newspaper urged the West to "listen to the voice of reason." (11 Feb 83, p. 5)

Ethiopia

Mengistu Predicts SWAPO Victory

(Text) All attempts by South Africa to prevent Namibia from gaining independence, as well as the striving of international imperialists to undermine the political and economic independence of other nations, will inevitably end in failure, declared Ethiopian President Mengistu. There is no doubt, he emphasized during the recent visit to Addis Ababa by SWAPO President Sam Nujoma, that the genuine struggle for freedom will gain a victory, regardless of imperialist plots. (24 Jan 83, p. 5)

Campaign Against Illiteracy

(Excerpt) The next step of the campaign for the eradication of illiteracy will be undertaken in Ethiopia. The important arena will be in the rural regions of the country. Instruction will be undertaken in 15 languages of the various national groups in Ethiopia. (27 Jan 83, p. 4)

Ethiopian Newspaper Criticizes US

(Excerpt) The aggressiveness of the US administration, which operates under the slogan "repulsion of the Soviet threat," is accelerating the arms race and threatening mankind, wrote the Ethiopian newspaper "Addis Zemen." The policies of international imperialism threaten the whole world with thermonuclear war in which there would be no survivors. (14 Feb 83, p. 5)

Ethiopian Regions Suffer Severe Drought

(Excerpt) Severe conditions have been found in Gondar and Wallo Provinces because of last year's drought. Help is coming from the government in the form of special committees which have been operating in places where the problem is most severe. At the present time, drought victims are being supplied with medicine and clothing. (15 Feb 83, p. 1)

Advances in Industrial Production

(Excerpt) The Ethiopian people marked the eighth anniversary of the revolutionary decree on the nationalization of production resources, banks, and insurance companies. Data published by the Ministry of Industry shows that since the revolution, industrial production in Ethiopia has grown by 82 percent. This progress was achieved by an increase in worker consciousness, improvements in working conditions, and an increase in production capacity. To a considerable extent, development of the process to normalize conditions in Eritrea has been

progressing which will enhance the industrial potential of the country. (16 Feb 83, p. 4)

Rural Sector Growth

(Excerpt) Production of agricultural and other rural products in Ethiopia has grown in the last year by five percent, according to official data. State credit has contributed greatly to the development of the rural sector. (19 Feb 83, p. 5)

Ghana

A Time of Change

(Excerpt) Ghana, which became West Africa's first independent country back in 1957, was the first state on the entire continent to proclaim a socialist future as the goal of its development.

That was the case in the time of President K. Nkrumah. But he was expelled from power in 1966. Successive regimes rejected a progressive line in the country's development. State enterprises were sold off to local and foreign capitalists. The economy of the country, which is rich in raw materials and has a good industrial base in African terms, was on the brink of collapse. The working people's situation deteriorated.

Then, a year ago, a group of military men headed by flight Lieutenant J. Rawlings took power. Since then life in Ghana has acquired a new rhythm and the country has entered a phase of change.

Events indicative of great social tension took place recently in Tema, a young industrial port city in Ghana. Workers at the Ghana textile printing combine who did not agree with the company leadership's intention of curtailing production took management into their own hands. When the bosses of Ghana textile printing started preparing for mass dismissals, citing lack of raw materials, the textile workers proposed sending some of the people to the cotton plantations.

The management would not agree to this. One fine day the workers found the factory closed. The news about events at Ghana textile printing spread rapidly all over Tema. The next day thousands of the city's working people held a demonstration of solidarity with the textile workers. The government also supported them. The Provisional National Defense Council (PNDC), the highest organ of power in Ghana today, took control of Ghana textile printing.

In its earliest statements in January 1982, the PNDC stressed that its aim is, first, to put an end to corruption, and, second, to give the people an opportunity to take part in resolving the problems facing Ghana. That line was put into practice in the creation and activity of people's committees for the defense of the revolution. Even before directives were published on forming them, committees began to spring up of their own accord all over the country. They expose inveterate embezzlers of public property, and in some places they organize communal farms to supply the population with food. In certain places they are beginning to exercise leadership over enterprises, as happened in Tema.

Serious political demands made by the people's committees for the defense of the revolution are not uncommon. For instance, the committee put forward proposals on nationalizing land and reviewing agreements with foreign companies active in the country which are disadvantageous to Ghana.

The new Ghanaian leadership inherited a grave legacy. Ghana's economy is on the brink of collapse. The main sector of the economy--the cocoa plantations, which bring in the lion's share of the country's foreign currency revenue--were in such a neglected state that specialists are concerned for the fate of cocoa cultivation in Ghana at all. Industrial enterprises are working well below capacity, often using only 10 percent of production capacities. Many of them are closing because of the lack of raw materials. Ghana's finances are in a state of complete disorder.

The economic dislocation is affecting the cities particularly severely. The supply of food products and essential goods has been sharply reduced. Rising oil prices and a worn-out pool of motor vehicles have exacerbated the transport problem everywhere.

In these conditions the foreign bourgeoisie is curtailing production and not infrequently creating artificial shortages. The Ghanaian press writes about all this, calling for foreign businessmen to be subject to restrictions. Sometimes the people's committees for the defense of the revolution summarily declare ownership of a particular enterprise, as in Tema. But other voices can be heard which advocate, on the contrary, an expansion of the presence of Western capital, in the belief that the country "cannot do without it."

Transnational monopolies are a topic of serious discussion in Ghana today. They do business in the gold and diamond mining industry, in transport, banking, agriculture, trade--in a word, everywhere. The authorities are studying the problem carefully. A recently published government program for economic improvement outlines a plan for the full transfer of foreign trade into the hands of the state and at the same time plans a review of earlier agreements with foreign monopolies. (7 Feb 83, p. 6, and translated in part by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #032, 15 Feb 83, pp. J1-2)

Guinea-Bissau

Soviet-Guinean Relations

(Excerpt) Cooperation between the Soviet Union and Guinea-Bissau is constantly developing and getting stronger, noted a member of the Politburo of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) Vasco Cabral. Noting the multi-sided and fruitful character of Soviet-Guinean relations, he said that the relationship is based on equality and mutual respect. (14 Feb 83, p. 4)

Madagascar

Malagasy-Soviet Relations

(Excerpt) A high appraisal of the Soviet-Malagasy cooperation was given by Malagasy Minister of Foreign Affairs Christian Remi Richard. Appearing at a

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ceremony for the signing of a consular agreement between the USSR and Madagascar, Richard noted that this document is a new powerful incentive for furthering the development of economic, trade, scientific and cultural ties. (14 Feb 83, p. 4)

Mali

CPSU Delegation in Mali

(Excerpt) A delegation from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) concluded a visit to Mali, during which cooperation between the CPSU and the Democratic Union of the People of Mali was affirmed. (5 Feb 83, p. 4)

Mozambique

Support for FRELIMO Evident on Eve of Fourth Party Congress

(Excerpt) Evidence of the growing authority of FRELIMO over the Mozambican population and the approval of the workers for the party is found in the growing political activity in the country on the eve of the Fourth Party Congress which will begin in April. (31 Jan 83, p. 5)

Construction of New Fishing Boats

(Text) Workers in fishing cooperatives operating in Quelimane, the administrative center of Zambezi Province, received seven new boats, reported the newspaper Noticias. The boats were constructed in the shipyards by the new state society, Navipesca, created in early 1982. Since then, more than 130 small boats have been built which were distributed among fishing companies and cooperatives in various regions of the country. (17 Feb 83, p. 5)

Machel to Visit USSR

(Text) President Machel will pay a friendly visit to the Soviet Union at the beginning of March at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Soviet Government. (21 Feb 83, p. 1)

Nigeria

Nigerian Delegation to Visit USSR

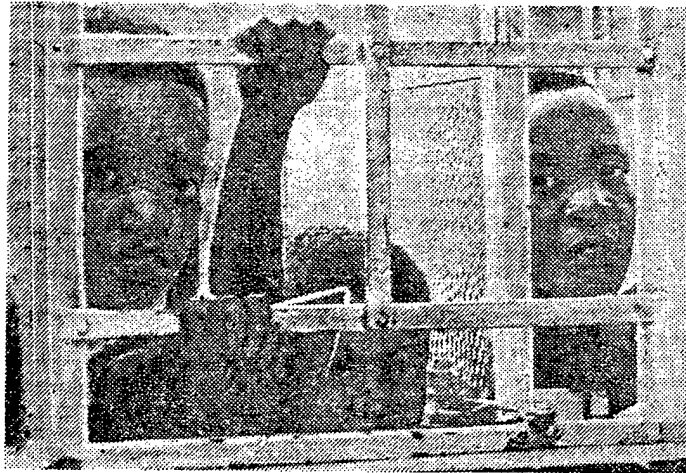
(Text) A friendship visit by a delegation from the Nigerian National Assembly will be made to the Soviet Union on 10 February. (11 Feb 83, p. 4)

Nigerian Delegation Meets with Soviet Officials

(Excerpt) The official friendship visit to the Soviet Union of a Nigerian National Assembly delegation continues. The delegates met with several high officials, and the Soviets and Nigerians agreed to continue to work against tension in international relations. The delegation traveled to Tashkent on 12 February. (13 Feb 83, p. 4)

Republic of South Africa

South African Laws Aimed Against Africans



Сквозь решетку видят свою родину эти темнокожие подростки (снимок из французской газеты «Юманите»). Таким «правом» их наделили расистские власти Претории. В государстве апартеида в настоящее время действуют более трехсот draconianовских законов, направленных против африканцев. Только на основании так называемого закона о пропусках в Южно-Африканской Республике каждый день арестовывается почти тысяча-черных жителей страны. В целях укрепления и увековечения своего господства расисты Южной Африки создали для африканцев бантустаны — резервации, отведя под них самые бесплодные и засушливые земли. Четырем подобным бантустанам-гетто режим Претории «предоставил» псевдонезависимость, чтобы создать иллюзию того, что как у белых, так и чернокожих в ЮАР имеются «собственные государства». На деле это означает нищету и бесправие для более чем 20 миллионов южноафриканцев с темным цветом кожи.

С. ДЕМИДОВ.

(Excerpt) These colored youngsters see their motherland through bars. Such is the "law" of the racist regime in Pretoria. At present, more than 300 draconian laws aimed against the Africans have been enacted. Each day almost a thousand dark-skinned residents of the country are arrested on the basis of the so-called permit laws. To strengthen and enlarge its rule, racist South Africa has created homelands for the Africans--reservations, located on the most arid and barren land. (24 Jan 83, p. 5)

Opposition Party Members Protest Policies

(Excerpt) The question of distrust of the government was raised in the South African parliament. A draft resolution was entered by opposition party deputies who voiced a protest of aggressive policies which the Botha government has instituted in its relations with the independent states of Africa. New facts were presented about the role of South Africa in disturbances in the Seychelles Islands. (11 Feb 83, p. 1)

Changes in Law Proposed

(Excerpt) South African Prime Minister Botha, appearing at the opening in Capetown of the plenary session of Parliament, spoke about the creation of a

special government commission for solving the problems of the local governments of communal African villages. Government officials hastened to present this as a step toward the radical revision of laws for dark-skinned South Africans. Real political improvements in racist South Africa are only important if they destroy the shameful apartheid system. The national party continues to adhere to the fundamental principles of apartheid, according to which the African population cannot charge the laws in its favor. (14 Feb 83, p. 5)

Israeli and South African Ties

За спиной правителей Израиля и оголтелых расистов Претории стоят Соединенные Штаты.



Линия связи. Connecting Links

Рис. В. Чакиридиса.

(Text) Behind the leaders of Israel and the shameless racists of Pretoria stands the United States. (20 Feb 83, p. 5)

Cholera Epidemic

(Excerpt) More than 300 people have died in South Africa from cholera in the last 3 years. Thousands of Africans fell victim to the disease which has reached epidemic proportions in the country. Cholera is transmitted by water. (21 Feb 83, p. 6)

Zimbabwe

State of Emergency Extended

(Excerpt) Zimbabwe's parliament voted, with an overwhelming majority, to extend for 6 months a state of emergency because of the subversive activities of the imperialist and racist forces against Zimbabwe. Since Zimbabwe gained independence, South Africa and its imperialist allies, especially the United States, have waged a large campaign to destabilize the country. (22 Jan 83, p. 5)

Land Redistribution

(Excerpt) The Government of Zimbabwe is taking measures to provide land to the poorest peasants in the country. More than 1.8 million hectares of land have already been redeemed to the state by white farmers and redistributed among the rural population. About 200,000 hectares have been set aside for the establishment of state farms. (24 Feb 83, p. 5)

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